

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT ON BILL NO. **S. 14**

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TO:	The Honorable Glenn McConnell, Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee		
FROM:	Office of State Budget, Budget and Control Board		
ANALYSTS:	Rodney P. Grizzle		
DATE:	January 24, 2005	SBD:	2005015

AUTHOR:	Senator McConnell	PRIMARY CODE CITE:	16-3-750
SUBJECT:	Sexual Contact with a Patient		

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES:

Minimal (Some additional costs expected but can be absorbed)

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON FEDERAL & OTHER FUND EXPENDITURES:

\$0 (No additional expenditures or savings are expected)

BILL SUMMARY:

The proposed legislation amends Chapter 3, Title 16, of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, by adding Section 16-3-750 which makes it a felony for a psychotherapist, an alcohol and drug abuse counselor or other confidant to engage in sexual contact or sexual battery with a current patient or former patient within the last three years.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT:

Judicial Department

The Department indicates there will be a minimal impact on the General Fund of the State, which can be absorbed by the agency at the current level of funding.

The Department of Corrections (SCDC)

The Department forecasts a minimal fiscal impact with the passage of the proposed legislation indicating that additional costs can be absorbed. Specifically, the Department notes that while data is not available to predict the number of convictions and the resultant admissions to SCDC for the offense of unlawful sexual contact with a patient by a psychotherapist, alcohol and drug abuse counselor, or other confidant, a significant population increase is not expected at this time.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT IMPACT:

None.

SPECIAL NOTES:

None.

Approved by:



Don Addy
Assistant Director, Office of State Budget